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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application and entry of the amendment are respectfully requested. Claims 1 to 26 are currently pending, and claims 7 to 26 have been canceled.

The Final Office Action mailed December 3, 2003 addressed claims 1 to 26. Claim 9 was objected to, and claims 7 to 26 were rejected.

Claim 9 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

In an effort to hasten prosecution, claim 9 has been canceled by this amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that this overcomes the objection.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In an effort to hasten prosecution, claim 9 has been canceled by this amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that this overcomes the rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 7 to 26 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, in an effort to hasten prosecution, claims 7 to 26 have been canceled by this amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that this overcomes the rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 7 to 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

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**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently rejected claims, claims 7 to 26. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 6, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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